

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The specification has been amended to address formal issues. Claim 1 has been amended editorially. Claims 20-23 and 27-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-19, 24-26 and 30 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

English abstracts of JP61053298, JP2003519222T, JP6506450T, JP9511238T and JP2001522845T are filed herewith. Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references. Since English language equivalents for each of these were provided with the IDS and identified specifically therein, no fee should be required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is rendered moot, as claim 23 has been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102/103

Claims 1-10, 13-14, 17, 19-23 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Song et al. (US Patent Application No. 11/298,317; also US Publication No. 2006/160821). Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17, 19-23 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song et al.

Filed herewith is a verified translation of the Japanese priority application with serial No. 2003-420031 filed December 17, 2003, of which Applicants claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. Applicants submit that the present claims are supported by the priority application with serial No. 2003-420031. By submitting the verified translation, the effective filing date of the present U.S. application will be retroactive to a priority date of December 17, 2003, which is earlier than the earliest US filing date of Song et al. Therefore, Song et al. is not available as prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections.

Claim Objections

Claims 20-23 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 19. Claims 20-23 have been canceled. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19-23 and 30 are objected to for containing elected and non-elected subject matter. Applicants contend that the present claims properly are generic to the elected species. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 612.455.3804 if there are any remaining issues.

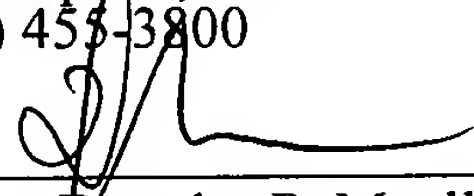


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Respectfully submitted,

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